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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1989
INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHTA/AMEMBASSY ASTANA PRIORITY 0168
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0195
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI PRIORITY 0108
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0357

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 001156

SIPDIS
ISN/RA ARIEL STUKALIN AND IO/T HEATHER VON BEHREN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/19/2018
TAGS: [IAEA](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [IR](#) [SY](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: GERMANY'S RESPONSE TO AFGHANISTAN'S IAEA BID

REF: STATE 87744

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission Jeffrey Rathke for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) PolOff delivered ref points to Martin Langer, head of the IAEA unit in the German MFA's Nuclear Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Office on August 19. Langer expressed agreement that "nearly any other option would be an improvement over Syria or Iran as a member of the IAEA's Board of Governors -- including Afghanistan."

¶2. (C) When questioned, Langer noted that Germany is raising this issue with MESA member states in the hopes that they will urge another country ("any other country") to become a candidate rather than Iran or Syria. Langer expressed hope that perhaps Jordan would reconsider and nominate itself, or that Kazakhstan might decide to join the MESA grouping and thus be eligible for nomination. He asked for any update the U.S. might have about progress in that regard. Without prodding, Langer noted that the credibility of the IAEA is at risk if Iran or Syria joined the BOG, but noted that "pushing" the regional groups toward a different direction can prove extremely tricky.
TIMKEN JR